

## 3. THE SUNG ANNALS.

In how high a degree the Chinese were dependent upon the older conceptions is also proved by a statement from the *Annals of the Sung dynasty* (960—1279 A. D.), which is ascribed to an embassy from *Khotan*<sup>1</sup>:

Die Gesandtschaft berichtete: Unser Land ist von der kaiserlichen Hauptstadt 9900 li entfernt; im Südwesten grenzt es an den *Ts'ung-ling*<sup>2</sup> und ist in 3000 li Entfernung mit dem Lande der *Brahmanen* (Indien) verbunden. Im Osten ist es den *T'u-fan* (Tibetern) benachbart. Im Nordwesten gelangt man nach über 2000 li bis *Su-lo* (Kashgar). Im Osten der Stadt (Khotan) ist der Fluß des weißen Nephrits (Yurung-kash-darya), im Westen der des grünen Nephrits, noch mehr im Westen der des schwarzen Nephrits (Kara-kash-darya). Ihre Quellen sind im *K'un-kang-Gebirge*<sup>3</sup>, 1300 li westlich von der Hauptstadt des Reiches.

## 4. TRAVELLERS DURING THE MONGOL DYNASTY.

During the dominion of the Mongols the interest in the *Ts'ung-ling* decreased as in Central Asia the centre of gravity of the intercourse was removed farther north to regions beyond the *Tien-shan*. In the period of the *Mongol dynasty* in China, no special remarks regarding the *Ts'ung-ling* may be established.<sup>4</sup> In this connection it is noticeable in what manner the Chinese travellers have spoken of these mountains.

Important is the travel of CH'ANG-CH'UN 長春 who in 1221—24 passed through the whole of Central Asia.<sup>5</sup> In 1220 he was invited to CHINGIS KHAN, and, as the conqueror in the meantime started for his campaign in *Western Asia*, the monk had to follow him. In February 1221 Ch'ang-ch'un left *China*, and travelled viâ *Uliassutai* and *Urumchi*, and along the northern foot of *Tien-shan* to *Jambalik* (Bishbalik), thence to *Kulja*, crossing the rivers *Chu* and *Talas*, reaching the city of *Sairam*, and finally crossing *Sir-darya* to *Samarkand*. Early in 1222 he went in search of Chingis Khan who then was in the *Hindu-kush*. Ch'ang-ch'un therefore had to travel viâ *Kesh* (Shar-i-sabs), the *Iron Gates*<sup>6</sup> and across *Amu-darya*. As the conqueror had no time to receive him, he returned to *Samarkand*, and in the autumn again travelled viâ *Balkh* to *Hindu-kush*. Now he was several times received, and, in 1223, accompanied Chingis Khan on his way eastwards. From *Tashkent* the old man got permission to continue alone the same way he had been coming. Bretschneider says that Ch'ang-ch'un's narrative is much more reasonable, valuable and easier to understand than the tales of RUSBRUK, CARPINI, HAITHON and others of his contemporaries.

<sup>1</sup> Sung-shih, book 490, p. 4b, Cf. A. RÉMUSAT, *Histoire de la ville des Khotan*, Paris 1820, p. 84.

<sup>2</sup> RÉMUSAT bringt hier die fehlerhafte Übersetzung «borné au midi par les montagnes Bleues». A. H.

<sup>3</sup> 崑岡山; vielleicht verschrieben für | 崑 K'un-lun, s. unten p. 67. A. H.

<sup>4</sup> Cf. E. BRETSCHNEIDER, *Mediaeval researches from Eastern Asiatic Sources. Fragments towards the knowledge of the geography and history of Central and Western Asia from the 13th to the 17th century.* 2 Vol., London 1887. Newly printed London 1910. — Also his *Notes on Chinese mediaeval travellers to the West.* Shanghai 1875.

<sup>5</sup> Loc. cit., Vol. I, p. 35 et seq.

<sup>6</sup> BRETSCHNEIDER identifies this place with the *Iron Gates* of CLAVIJO, who says, August 25th 1404, or three days before he reached *Kesh* «This hill is very high, and there is a pass leading up by a ravine, which looks as if it had been artificially cut, and the hills rise to a great height on either side, and the pass is smooth, and very deep. In the centre of the pass there is a village, and the mountain rises to a great height behind. This pass is called 'the gates of iron', and in all the mountain range there is no other pass, so that it guards the land of *Samarkand*, in the direction of *India*. These gates of iron produce a large revenue to the lord TIMOUR BEG, for all merchants, who come from *India*, pass this way.» — CLEMENTS R. MARKHAM, *Narrative of the Embassy of Ruy Gonzalez de Clavijo to the court of Timour, at Samarkand, A. D. 1403—6.* London MDCCCLIX, p. 121.